



Five of our trainees in electrical and electronic engineering achieved first class, while eight got second class.

# BD9m skills programme

The Bahrain Training Institute (BTI) has launched a BD9 million expansion scheme as it strives to provide increasing numbers of youngsters with the skills and qualifications they need in the jobs market.

This year the institute, established 18 years ago, received its third award in educational excellence from UK-based Edexcel.

This made it the first training institution in the Middle East to be honoured by Edexcel three times, having received the award twice in the previous five years.

By strengthening its ties with the largest local establishments and entering partnership agreements, BTI has played a pioneering role in offering vocational training and rehabilitation programmes to university graduates, as

well as job-seekers, in all fields.

The expansion project has two phases, the first of which includes the construction of an academic building of three floors on 16,170 square metres of land, at a cost of BD6 million.

It will have 45 classes and 33 laboratories for civil, mechanical and electronic engineering.

The second phase is a BD3m, three-storey information technology building, on 5,769 sqm of land.

This year, the BTI launched a Bachelor degree programme in applied engineering, in co-operation with Teesside University, in the UK.

An extensive review has also been conducted of the two programmes introduced in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and in Mechanical Engineering.

It was found that trainees were making great



● The BTI delegation in Abu Dhabi at the GCC Skills Competition

progress, with a 90 per cent success rate amongst the first batch in the Electrical and Electronic Engineering programme and 80pc in Mechanical Engineering.

"Five of our trainees in the Electrical and Electronic Engineering achieved first class, while eight got second class," says BTI director general Hameed Saleh.

"These results were highly commended by the exam board at Teesside University as in fact they outperformed those of Teesside trainees."

Based on that success, the feedback from relevant industries either from the private or public sectors, market demand and the advice received from the Programme Advisory Committee, the BTI realised a need to launch more such programmes in different specializations.

This is one of the reasons why it launched a third Bachelor Engineering programme in Instrumentation and Control Engineering.

More programmes are planned for next year in other disciplines, such as Information Technology (IT) and Business.

The fact that BTI is sharing the same goals and visions with Tamkeen (formerly the Labour Fund), foremost of which is to fill the gaps in the labour market, particularly in the private sector, created strong links and a partnership between the two parties.

This resulted in signing several contracts and Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) aiming for the implementation of several programmes to ensure the achievement of those goals.

This year, the institute continued its efforts in extending its partnership with Tamkeen by being engaged in more skills development programmes.

The most important implemented is the Design and Tailoring programme, which was conducted in co-operation with the Supreme Council for Women and Tamkeen.

The first batch of 28 women celebrated their graduation in October this year.

Tamkeen awarded the graduates BD550 each to start their own enterprises in design and tailoring, as the main aim of the programme was to empower women to establish small and medium enterprises, in order to integrate themselves in the national economy.

The other two agreements signed with Tamkeen this year aimed at empowering Bahrainis by qualifying them as quantity surveyors and IT professionals.

A total of 220 Bahrainis benefitted from this. "In fact, BTI, through its IT academy, always seeks to structure powerful programmes that meet the needs for IT professionals at different levels in Bahrain," says Mr Saleh.

"We have four programmes running under this project, the 16-month Cisco Certified Security Professional Track and the 12-month

Master CIW Website Manager for university graduates.

"The 32-month BTI Professional Diploma in Computing Studies, which also includes the Cisco Certified Security Professional Track and the 39-month BTI Professional Diploma in Computing Studies (Web-page Development Specialists) and Master CIW Website Manager, are open to school graduates."

Two hundred and 220 Bahraini civil engineering graduates are being steered towards a post-graduate certificate in Quantity Surveying. The project is being conducted in association with Heriott Watt University, in Scotland and runs over two years.

This year, BTI was awarded the contract for the quantity surveyor training programme as a result of its outstanding training reputation and its association with well reputed educational and training bodies.

In addition to the agreements signed earlier this year, BTI and Tamkeen signed many other agreements over the last few years that contributed largely to bridging the skill gap in the country's labour market.

BTI became the first Local Cisco Networking Academy in Bahrain in 2001. In 2006, it was awarded the regional status and given the authority to license all Cisco local academies in the region.

"Being a regional academy shows Cisco's faith and trust in us as an institution that has all the credentials to make the programme a success," says Mr Saleh.

"In fact, through the years, BTI licensed seven local academies in Bahrain, trained their trainers and provided all the support needed to run Cisco programmes at these academies.

"These were the Cisco Networking academies at Arabian Gulf University, Arab Open University, Gulf University, Centre of Excellence for Technical and Vocational Education at Khalifa Institute of Technology, Batelco and the Indian School."

The latest milestone is the certificate of excellence awarded to BTI by Cisco as its best academy in the Gulf and Pakistan region.

The award was presented at the Arabian Adventure Roadshow, held in Dubai, in March, by Cisco Networking Academy, to celebrate its academies in the Arab World.

"We see this award as a certification of BTI's abilities in running programmes of high international standards and up to the expectation of the awarding bodies," adds Mr Saleh.

BTI is currently running three Cisco Networking curriculum, these are IT Essentials, Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP).

A new CCNA Security programme began in



extends warmest greetings and congratulations to

**His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

**His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

The Prime Minister

**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**

Deputy Supreme Commander

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain

on the occasion of

**The National Day**



On 19th December 2009 Spirit of Manila Airlines commences flight between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Clark International Airport, Philippines.

Tel. 17 246665 Fax 17 232772

almuhana@batelco.com.bh www.spiritofmanilaairlines.com